14:International Bank S-5 (1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

architects to design certain major projects independently or in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works. A number of standard types of buildings should be developed and studied as a guide for future projects. For example, two or three tested types of classrooms should be available, suited to the differing climatic regions of Syria.

Commercial Buildings

With respect to commercial buildings, the government's problems include provision of town and village markets. For centuries these have been built on a traditional oriental design, with a network of covered passages on which the various shops open. Such construction has permitted market activity under conditions of severe heat or heavy rain, and has lent itself to the prevalence of small shops appropriate to the country's economic standards. Although this form of market is still the most common, new ones of the type are no longer being built. In some settlements of the Jezireh, in Kamichliye and Hassetche, the new *souks* borrow something from the old design, combining it with regular narrow streets covered with temporary roofing. Elsewhere markets are following the western pattern.

As part of the general development program the government might well finance a special study of the type of market that will most economically offer protected shopping, small-size shops, sanitary conditions and better ventilation. Thereafter municipalities should proceed to plan for their own requirements.

Transportation Structures

Most buildings related to transportation services are the responsibility of the railways and port authorities, and provision has been made for them in the transport program. Yet one category of building usually neglected in planning is that serving bus and truck transportation, which is of greatest importance in a country like Syria with its many small settlements. What is needed is something equivalent to the caravanserai of earlier times—perhaps a combination of a big courtyard, a service garage, a storehouse and a small hostel. Here too, the government might undertake a study of an appropriate prototype, leaving construction to the municipalities and private business.